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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02013 021853Z

46
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 032529
P 021556Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7085

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 2013

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, SY, US
SUBJECT: US-ASAD RELATIONSHIP

REF: DAMASCUS 1985

1. BELIEVE IT WILL BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO KEEP ASAD AS FULLY BRIEFED AS YOU DEEM PRUDENT ON AMBASSADOR BROWN'S MEETING WITH THE LEBANESE. HE RESPONDED VERY POSITIVELY TO YOUR OFFER OF THIS. THE LEBANESE FOR THEIR OWN REASONS WILL BE PLAYINF BACK HERE THEIR OWN VERSION OF THESE MEETINGS. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER HAVING BROWN VISIT HERE AT SOME POINT TO BRIEF THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY. SUCH A VISIT COULD HELP UNDERLINE THAT WE WERE CONTINUING TO GIVE SPECIAL WEIGHT TO SYRIA'S VIEWS. THERE MIGHT BE A PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IF YOU THOUGHT BROWN WOULD ALSO HAVE TO PAY A PARALLEL VISIT TO ISRAEL. IN THAT CASE, I BELIEVE HIS COMING TO DAMASCUS COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING MORE CONFIDENCE BETWEEN US AND ASAD. IT COULD MOREOVER BE EMBARRASSING TO HIM SINCE IT WOULD PROBABLY BE PLAYED BY HIS CRITICS AS INDICATING SYRIAN/ ISRAELI COLLUSION IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS.

2. SUGGEST PASS BEIRUT.
MURPHY

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